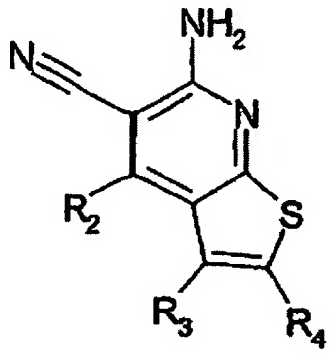
The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~The use of a~~ A compound of formula (I), or a salt, N-oxide, hydrate, or solvate thereof, ~~in the preparation of a composition~~ for inhibition of HSP90 activity in vitro or in vivo:



(I)

wherein

R_2 is a group of formula (IA):

$$-(Ar^1)_m-(Alk^1)_p-(Z)_r-(Alk^2)_s-Q \qquad (IA)$$

wherein in any compatible combination

Ar^1 is an optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl radical,

Alk^1 and Alk^2 are optionally substituted divalent C_1-C_3 alkylene or C_2-C_3 alkenylene radicals,

m, p, r and s are independently 0 or 1,

Z is -O-, -S-, -(C=O)-, -(C=S)- SO_2-, -C(=O)O-, -C(=O)NR^A- , -C(=S)NR^A-, -SO_2NR^A-, -$NR^AC(=O)$-, -NR^ASO_2- or -NR^A-

wherein R^A is hydrogen or C_1-C_6 alkyl, and

Q is hydrogen or an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic radical;

R_3 is hydrogen, an optional substituent, or an optionally substituted (C_1C_6)alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl radical; and

R_4 is a carboxylic ester, carboxamide or sulfonamide group.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein m is 1, each of p, r and s is 0, and Q is hydrogen.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ compound as claimed in claim 2 wherein R_2 is optionally substituted phenyl, 2- or 3-thienyl, 2- or 3-furanyl, or 2-, 3- or 4-pyridinyl.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ compound as claimed in claim 2 wherein R_2 is phenyl, optionally substituted by methyl, ethyl, n- or isopropyl, methoxy, ethoxy, isopropoxy, chloro, or bromo.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ compound as claimed in claim 3 wherein the optional substituent is in the 4-position of the phenyl ring.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein m is 1, and p, r and s are 0, and Q is an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein Ar^1 is a phenyl or pyridyl ring.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein R_3 is amino (NH_2).

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein R_4 is a carboxamide group of formula $-CONR^B(Alk)_nR^A$ wherein

Alk is a divalent alkylene, alkenylene or alkynylene radical, ~~for example a $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH=CH-$, or $-CH_2CCCH_2$ radical,~~ and the Alk radical may be optionally substituted,

n is 0 or 1 ,

R^B is hydrogen or a C_1-C_6 alkyl or C_2-C_6 alkenyl group, ~~for example methyl, ethyl, n- or iso-propyl, or allyl,~~

R^A is hydroxy or optionally substituted carbocyclic~~, for example hydroxy and/or chloro-substituted phenyl and 3,4 methylenedioxyphenyl~~; or heterocyclyl, ~~for example pyridyl, furyl, thienyl, N-piperazinyl, or N-morpholinyl~~ any of which heterocyclic rings may be substituted, or R^A and R^B taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form an N-heterocyclic ring which may optionally contain one or more additional hetero atoms selected from O, Sand N, and which may optionally be substituted on one or more ring C or N atoms~~, examples of such N-heterocyclic rings including morpholino, piperidinyl, piperazinyl and N-phenylpiperazinyl~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ compound as claimed in any ~~of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1wherein R_4 is a carboxylic ester group of formula -$COOR^C$ wherein R^C is a C_1-C_6 alkyl or C_2-C_6 alkenyl group, or an optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl group, or an optionally substituted aryl(C_1-C_6 alkyl)- or heteroaryl(C_1-C_6 alkyl)- group or an optionally substituted cycloalkyl group.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ compound as claimed in any of ~~claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1 wherein R_4 is a carboxylic ester group of formula -$COOR^C$ wherein R^C is optionally substituted methyl, ethyl, n- or iso-propyl, allyl, phenyl, pyridyl, thiazolyl, benzyl, pyridylmethyl, cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of treatment of diseases or conditions mediated by excessive or inappropriate HSP90 activity in mammals which method comprises administering to the mammal an amount of a compound as defined in ~~any of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1 effective to inhibit said HSP90 activity.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~use as claimed in claim 11 or a~~ method as claimed claim 12 for the treatment of cancer.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~use as claimed in claim 11 or a~~ method as claimed claim 12 for immunosuppression or the treatment of inflammatory diseases ~~such as rheumatoid arthritis, asthma, multiple sclerosis, Type I diabetes, lupus, psoriasis and inflammatory bowel disease~~; or cystic fibrosis angiogenesis-related disease ~~such as diabetic retinopathy, haemangiomas, and endometriosis~~; or for protection of normal cells against chemotherapy-induced toxicity; or diseases where failure to undergo apoptosis is an underlying factor; or protection from hypoxia-ischemic injury due to elevation of Hsp70 in the heart and brain; scrapie/CJD, Huntingdon's or Alzheimer's disease.

15. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical or veterinary composition comprising a compound of formula (I) as specified in ~~any of claims 1 to 11~~, claim 1 together with a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable carrier.

16. (New) The compound of claim 9 wherein Alk a $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH{=}CH-$, or $-CH_2CCCH_2$ radical.

17. (New) The compound of claim 9 wherein R^B methyl, ethyl, n- or iso-propyl, or allyl.

18. (New) The compound of claim 9 wherein R^A is hydroxy, chloro-substituted phenyl,or 3,4 methylenedioxyphenyl; or pyridyl, furyl, thienyl, N-piperazinyl, or N-morpholinyl any of which heterocyclic rings may be substituted.

19. (New) The compound of claim 9 wherein R^A and R^B taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form morpholino, piperidinyl, piperazinyl or N-phenylpiperazinyl.

20. (New) The method as claimed claim 14 for immunosuppression or the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, asthma, multiple sclerosis, Type I diabetes, lupus, psoriasis, inflammatory bowel disease, diabetic retinopathy, haemangiomas, or endometriosis.